

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
  
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY

In the Matter of the Xcel Energy Route  
Permit Application for the Yankee  
Substation to Brookings County Substation  
115 kV #2 Transmission Line Project

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

A public hearing in this matter was held June 12, 2008, before Administrative Law Judge Steve M. Mihalchick at the Midwest Center for Wind Energy, 2390 Lincoln County Highway 1, Hendricks, Minnesota. The hearing was held pursuant to a Notice of Public Hearing and Availability of Environmental Assessment issued May 30, 2008.<sup>1</sup>

Lisa Agrimonti and Valerie T. Herring, Attorneys at Law, Briggs and Morgan, 2200 IDS Center, 80 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402, appeared for and on behalf of the Applicant. Scott Ek, Project Manager, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101, appeared for and on behalf of the Energy Facility Permitting Staff, Office of Energy Security, Department of Commerce.

Seven members of the public attended the hearing and signed the hearing register.<sup>2</sup> They were advised that, in addition to any comments at the hearing, they could also submit written comments to the Administrative Law Judge by June 27, 2008.

Mr. Ek described his role in the process and that of the Energy Permitting Unit. He described the Environmental Assessment he had prepared.<sup>3</sup> He submitted Exhibits 1 through 17, which included Exhibit 16 from the Applicant.<sup>4</sup> He also introduced Mike Kaluzniak of the Commission staff, who described the Commission's role and process.

Ms. Agrimonti introduced Pam Rasmussen, Project Lead, and Mark Anderson, Project Manager. Ms. Rasmussen described the project in terms of the lines and poles, schedule, right-of-way acquisition process, and routing.<sup>5</sup>

There were then two questions from the public. Sebastian Schwing asked about compensation for affected land owners. Ms. Rasmussen addressed acquisition process in more detail and responded to follow-up questions from Sebastian Schwing.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 13.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 17.

<sup>3</sup> Exhibit 12.

<sup>4</sup> Transcript at 10.

<sup>5</sup> Transcript at 12-17.

Ted Schwing asked some questions about some stakes that had been placed, followed by some soil boring. Applicant had ordered some soil borings, but Ms. Rasmussen and Applicant's other personnel present at the hearing were not aware of any staking. However, they did promise to follow up on the issue with Ted Schwing.<sup>7</sup>

Ted Schwing sent in the only written comment, which was received on June 17, 2008. He supported placing the line on the east side of 110<sup>th</sup> Ave for one and ¾ miles north of Cty Rd 13, then on the west side for ¼ mile along their property in Section 13. He questioned why the line must avoid wetland between Sections 25 and 30 in light of the fact that a feeder line had been constructed through the wetland in 2007.<sup>8</sup>

Dated: July 8, 2008

/s/ Steve M. Mihalchick

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STEVE M. MIHALCHICK  
Administrative Law Judge

Reported: Shaddix and Associates  
Jolene Carrow, Ct Reporter  
Transcript Prepared.

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<sup>6</sup> Transcript at 18-21.

<sup>7</sup> Transcript at 21-25.

<sup>8</sup> Exhibit 18.